

Operation Lifeline Sudan resumes

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations is preparing to resume large-scale food relief operations in southern Sudan after getting the go-ahead from Khartoum and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), U.N. officials said Monday. The green light came Friday when rebels lifted objections to a resumption of relief flights to the war-torn region. It did so after receiving guarantees that food deliveries to the rebel side would be based on the result of a new U.N. survey. The SPLA had earlier protested at U.N. plans to allocate only 16,000 tonnes of the 104,000 tonnes of food to be distributed this year in rebel-held areas. The military government in Khartoum banned relief flights to the south Nov. 3 to launch a bombing campaign against rebel-held towns in the region, but two weeks ago it said the relief flights could resume. U.N. spokesman Carlton James said the first U.N. plane to fly in to rebel-held areas of southern Sudan would probably leave Lokichoggio in northwestern Kenya for Bor, a town on the River Nile, Tuesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جريدة تليز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

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Bait Al Maqdes assails U.S. Senate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic conference of Jerusalem (Bait Al Maqdes) Monday condemned a U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In a cable addressed to President George Bush, the organization said the decision constituted "a grave danger and a flagrant aggression on the Arab Nation." The resolution "contradicts the official American stand which calls for just and durable peace in the Middle East and conflicts with all U.N. resolutions on the Palestine issue which were supported by Washington," it said. The cable said that Jerusalem "represents Arab and Islamic cultural and historical heritage and the decision was an insult to the Arab and Muslim nations and is bound to cause further violence." The cable demanded that the U.S. Congress rescind such "dangerous decisions." The conference also issued a statement noting that the protection of Jerusalem "an Arab and Islamic responsibility" and called on Arab and Muslim countries to take a very firm stand with regard to the issue at the international level.

PLO welcomes Thatcher remarks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) welcomed reports Monday that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories was illegal. Thatcher was quoted as saying in an interview with two Kuwaiti newspapers that settling Soviet Jews in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem was illegal and would complicate peace (see page 2). Bessam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in a written statement: "We positively appreciate what the British prime minister said." Abu Sharif called on the international community to put pressure on Israel to speed up withdrawal from the territories.

Ceausescu's brother denies charges

BUCHAREST (R) — The younger brother of executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu appeared before a military court Monday and denied that he murdered seven people during last December's revolution. "I do not admit that I have shot anyone dead," Lieutenant-General Nicolae Andruță Ceausescu told a three-man military court. The trial of Ceausescu — who closely resembles his brother — was the first of a member of the former ruling class since the Stalinist president and his wife Elena were tried and executed last December 25. He denied all the main charges against him — "aggravated murder," attempted murder and "instigating unfulfilled genocide" by ordering secret police cadets under his command to fire on protesters.

Chad says Libyan forces attacking its positions

CAIRO (R) — Chad's ambassador to Egypt accused Libya Monday of attacking Chadian positions from Sudanese territory in violation of a truce. Abdul Kader Adam told Egypt's national news agency that an envoy would arrive in Cairo next week to deliver a message from Chadian leader Hissene Habré to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). He said the message would deal with the Chadian-Libyan conflict, but he did not identify the envoy. "The ceasefire is being consistently violated with (Libyan) attacks launched from Sudan's Darfur region," Adam said.

Arab, African refugees halt hunger strike

WARSAW (R) — Fifteen Arab and African refugees, stranded in Poland when Sweden refused them entry, have called off a hunger strike after meeting U.N. representatives, a local official said Monday. The protesters were among hundreds of refugees in the Baltic port of Szwedzka deported from Sweden last week. The official said the 15 ended a five-day fast in a Szwedzka church on Sunday after representatives from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees told them none would be sent back to countries where their lives would be in danger. Some 45 refugees went on hunger strike last Tuesday, but the other 30 had already called off their protest. The refugees include Lebanese, Iranians, Iraqis, Libyans, Kurds, Somalis, Eritreans and Sri Lankans.

Pakistan to seek \$3.57b in foreign aid

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan will seek \$3.57 billion in foreign aid in the 1990/91 fiscal year beginning in July when it hopes to sustain economic growth of more than five per cent, government sources said Monday. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government will ask for \$3.29 billion from a World Bank consortium meeting in Paris on April 17-18 and \$282 million from other sources, they said. The amount from the consortium, if agreed, will be slightly less than the \$3.41 billion committed last year.

Saddam Hussein says Iraqi chemical weapons are capable of destroying half of Israel

Iraq threatens massive retaliation if Israel attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein threatened Monday to incinerate half of Israel with advanced chemical weapons if it joined what he called a big power conspiracy against Iraq.

"It seems that Bazoft was the only human being in this world, while the 17 million Iraqis are not," he said. "So... the new human rights slogan of the superpowers is: To protect spies. May God's curse fall upon the big powers."

"The big powers seem to have decided to play the game themselves and directly... and let the one who wants to try his luck, let him try," Hussein said.

The charges led to calls in the U.S. and Israel for the destruction of Iraq's alleged nuclear capability.

"Do they think the \$10,500 worth of triggers were enough to produce atomic bombs?... what nonsense... we don't need an atomic bomb, because we have binary chemicals," Hussein told a military ceremony in Baghdad Monday.

Binary weapons have two components, each relatively harmless until they combine after launch to produce a deadly nerve agent.

Israel seeks to calm tempers after Iraqi warning

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Monday it would not be intimidated by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat to use chemical weapons against the Jewish state but sought to calm tempers.

"Israel has no aggressive intentions against anyone but has sufficiently proven in the past that it is able to defend itself and will not be blackmailed by threats like that," said Avi Fazzier, senior advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

He told Reuters Israel did not take the Iraqi threat lightly and would act cautiously.

Israeli President Saddam Hussein, in a televised speech, said Baghdad had highly advanced chemical weapons and threatened to destroy half of Israel if it struck against his country.

Japan to help effort for Mideast dialogue

CAIRO (R) — Japan plans to invite senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials to Tokyo in an effort to open a direct dialogue between the PLO and Israel, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

Questioned on a Tokyo press report, the official said: "We are planning to do so... but their itinerary has not yet been fixed."

In another sign that energy-starved Japan is adopting a higher diplomatic profile in the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry said United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan would visit Tokyo in mid-May.

An official said a formal announcement would come later.

Monday's newspaper report on the PLO visit said the Japanese side was expected to appeal to Palestinian officials to hold talks with Israel while stressing its support for the peace initiative of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Last autumn Japan reached separate agreement to hold regular political dialogues with Israel and the PLO when both Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens visited Tokyo.

The Foreign Ministry official said the agenda for the UAE president's talks with Japanese leader May include guarantees of stable crude oil supply to Japan — the UAE is Japan's largest source of oil — as well as the expansion of technical cooperation and Japanese public investment.

Israelis want electoral reform

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis, disgusted with the current backroom maneuvering to form a new government, are increasingly demanding electoral reform.

An opinion poll published Monday in the Maariv newspaper showed 73 per cent favoured immediate reform of Israel's strict proportional representation system that leaves a small minority of ultra-orthodox rabbis holding the balance of power.

President Chaim Herzog met three reserve army officers on hunger strike outside parliament to demand a change in the form of government and supported their cause, his office said.

The mayors of most major cities placed a joint advertisement in the Haaretz newspaper Monday calling for a mass rally next Saturday to demand the direct election of the prime minister and a constituency electoral system.

The hunger strikers said they had collected thousands of signatures on a petition and vowed to continue their fast until all

Israelis took to the streets.

"We're sick and tired of these politicians and this form of government. We can't miss this chance to change the system. We will do everything to get each Israeli... on the street," said Avi Kadish, 37, on the sixth day of the hunger strike.

The usually neutral president said in his monthly radio address last week there was an urgent need for electoral reform that would give voters a direct say in who ran the country.

"Until a direct connection is established between the voter and those he elects, the voter will not be master in his own house as befits a democratic country," Herzog said.

Labour leader Shimon Peres was granted first try to form a government but support in parliament is split 60-60 between his more dovish party and caretaker Premier Yitzhak Shamir's Likud.

Both sides have courted old rabbis who could break the tie.

Last week the rabbis scored an unprecedented victory when parliament approved a state budget allocating three times more money to religious institutions than in 1989.

But political commentators say the big parties are too behoven

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Mandela, deputy president of the ANC, urged his supporters and those of the rival Inkatha organisation to quit fighting and unite in the struggle against the white-led government.

"We are not fighting Inkatha," Mandela told 2,000 people crammed into a church hall. "We are fighting apartheid and the forces of oppression."

Mandela said he would meet de Klerk Thursday to discuss ways to end the violence. Mandela, who has acknowledged differences with other ANC leaders, decided

to meet de Klerk despite the ANC decision to pull out of preliminary peace talks scheduled for next week.

Police in Natal said the clashes between ANC supporters and Inkatha, a Zulu organisation, killed at least 53 people and wounded hundreds since last Tuesday. Local reporters said the death toll could reach 100.

Even before de Klerk's announcement, troop reinforcements in steel helmets and carrying automatic weapons were drafted into townships of Natal province.

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Settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab lands is illegal, Thatcher says

KUWAIT (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an interview published Monday, said settling Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, was illegal and will thwart Middle East peace efforts.

She backed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan envisaging an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

She said it would be "a very ironic and unjust reward for all our efforts if the freedom of Soviet Jews to emigrate were to be at the expense of the rights, the homes and the land of the people of the occupied territories."

"I hope that a new Israeli government can be formed quickly, with the courage to say 'yes' to dialogue with a genuinely representative Palestinian delegation," Thatcher told Arabic-language Al Qasas daily.

The English text of the interview was published by the English-language Kuwait Times daily.

The coalition government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir faltered earlier this month over his refusal to accept U.S. peace proposals.

Middle East peace efforts have been further complicated by the expected flood of Soviet Jews to Israel following Moscow's easing of travel restrictions.

The Arabs fear that as many as 75,000 Soviet Jews will emigrate to Israel, with many settling in the occupied West Bank and

Gaza Strip, which roughly encompass an independent Palestinian state proclaimed in November 1988.

Thatcher noted: "We support Mr. Baker's efforts. It is most unfortunate that the prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, for which he and others have worked so hard, have been set back by the collapse of the Israeli coalition."

On the Soviet Jews, she said: "There are two important issues here. One is the freedom of the Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel and elsewhere."

"We worked very hard to secure them that right and support it fully," she said.

"The second is the settling of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. That is illegal, and is likely to make the search for peace in the region even harder."

Thatcher said any Middle East settlement should provide for Palestinian self-determination as well as security for Israel.

She backed convening an international conference under United Nations auspices, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, as "a good

overall framework for direct negotiations between the parties."

"The cornerstone of any settlement should be Security Council Resolution 242 and exchange for land for peace," she added.

The British-drafted resolution after the 1967 Middle East war has provided the basis for all Middle East peacemaking attempts.

Responding to a question about what could be done to prevent the renewal of hostilities between Iran and Iraq, Thatcher expressed all-out support for efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

She said both sides should show flexibility.

"This is a serious problem. There has to be a permanent settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict on the basis of the Security Council Resolution 598," she said.

"The international community can lend its full support and encouragement to all that is being done by the U.N. Secretary General to convene direct talks between the two sides."

A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire halting the 8-year Gulf war took effect on Aug. 20, 1988. But peace talks have stalled.

Thatcher noted: "If the secretary-general's efforts are to succeed, then Iran and Iraq must approach those talks with flexibility and willingness to make progress."

Ethiopians, Eritrean rebels meet in Sanaa

No love of charity after 15 years of Lebanese civil war

By Yousef Azmeh
Reuter

BEIRUT — Slogans hung by a Muslim charity on lamp-posts among the rubble of west Beirut streets proclaim: "Love your fellow man."

The slogans, bright and cheery in daylight, seem out of place in a city that sees little evidence of love or charity after almost 15 years of vicious civil war.

The lamp-posts are redundant. Beirut is plunged into blackness every night. It has been without electricity and water since fighting in January knocked out its main power station and cut off water supplies.

Returning after 10 years to a city that used to be the playground and intellectual capital of the Middle East was a harrowing experience.

Hardly a building has escaped the bombers and snipers.

Many a handsome Italian-style villa lies in ruins. Others are disfigured by layers of protective sandbags and thick steel shutters.

Fit is everywhere. Windows are broken, some covered with makeshift hardboard.

The streets are dotted with burnt out shells of once thriving hotels and luxury apartment buildings.

Washing hangs from gaping holes in the sides of buildings that have been hit by rockets and are now often taken over by homeless refugees.

The din of private generators installed on apartment balconies to secure a few hours of electric

ity a day is deafening. The whole city appears to be constantly shaking.

"It's like living in a cabin next to the engine room of an ancient steam ship," one resident said. "I can't sleep."

The stench of diesel fuel is overpowering, although many say they no longer notice it.

But the biggest fear is about personal safety, despite Lebanese or Syrian checkpoints that block your way every few hundred metres, adding to the congestion of the already chaotic traffic.

Guards would have to stand every few metres in every street for Beirutis to regain their sense of security.

At night, driving in the darkened streets is eerie.

Even during the day, relatives and friends start worrying that you may have come to some harm if you are five minutes late. They are often unable to check as most telephones are dead.

In one incident, a resident left his apartment on a side street as the city was emptying at dusk to visit a brother who lived a few yards away across a normally busy road.

As he stepped off the pavement, an unmarked car pulled up ahead. Two armed men in civilian clothes bundled him into the back seat as the car sped away.

"Why didn't you stop at the checkpoint," said one. There was no checkpoint. The men said they were "security," without identifying themselves any further.

They asked him to empty his pockets "in order to confirm your

identity," and were indignant when they found he had only 2,000 Lebanese pounds (\$4). They looked at his watch but quickly saw that it was not worth much.

They pushed him out in another part of town after 30 horrific minutes with a warning of "don't do it again."

He was one of the lucky ones. He returned home shaking and convinced he would not have stayed alive if he had carried anything valuable. They may not have cared to leave a witness behind.

The latest inter-Christian war that killed more than 800 people in what many see as senseless fighting among brothers and cousins appears to have finally shattered many hopes that an end to the misery may be in sight.

The rich who remain have second homes elsewhere and return when things are relatively quiet. Others who can afford it take an occasional trip abroad to relieve the strain.

Of those who have doggedly stayed behind trying to eke out a difficult existence since civil war broke out in April 1975 many would now like to emigrate.

The number wanting to leave since a major resurgence of fighting a year ago has been put at 400,000 out of a population of three million.

Beirut airport is packed with departing families — the fortunate ones who have been able to obtain visas to foreign countries increasingly closing their doors to Lebanese.

Afghan rebels told to stay out of drug business

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The United States has told Afghan guerrillas to stay out of the drug business or risk losing support for their fight against Afghanistan's Communist-led government, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

"What we have made very clear to the Mujahedeen commanders is that they must stay out of drugs and that they must discourage production of drugs," said Melvin Levitsky, an assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters.

"We cannot accept a situation where we are giving assistance to the Mujahedeen and they, on the other hand, are encouraging drug production and drug trafficking," he said at the end of a three-day visit to Pakistan.

The major Moslem rebel groups, which are based in Pakistan, have acknowledged that some of their local commanders are involved in poppy cultivation. But the leaders of those groups deny they condone opium production.

Levitsky is touring Thailand, India, Pakistan and Turkey as part of the effort by U.S. President George Bush to involve more countries in the fight against international drug trafficking.

Afghanistan produced an estimated 750 tonnes of opium in 1988, making it the world's second biggest supplier after Burma.

The decade-old war between the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and the Muslim guerrillas, known as Mujahedeen, has destroyed much of Afghanistan's agrarian economy.

Amid the fighting and breakdown in law enforcement, the small centuries-old tradition of poppy cultivation has grown into a multi-million dollar industry. It has spawned what many Pakistanis call "the heroin and Kalashnikov culture."

Hashemi's Lebanon visit not linked to hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — The visit to Lebanon late in March by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani's brother was not related to the issue of the 18 Western hostages held by underground Shi'ite Muslim factions, a statement said Monday.

Mahmoud Hashemi's visit to Lebanon was for "humanitarian purposes and not linked to the hostages" said a statement by Houssem Mousavi, one of the Shi'ite Lebanese leaders who met Rafsanjani's brother in Lebanon.

The newspaper *Ad-Diyar*, based in Christian east Beirut, had reported that Hashemi met in the eastern Bekaa Valley last week with Mousavi and leaders of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God.

Rafsanjani had previously assigned his brother to sensitive missions and *Ad-Diyar* suggested that his visit to the Syrian-policed Bekaa Valley was related to the issue of the Western hostages, including nine Americans.

The statement by Mousavi, who heads the Islamic Amal, or Islamic hope movement, described *Ad-Diyar's* report as "fantasy." It did not elaborate. Islamic Amal is closely associated with Hezbollah.

The Iranian embassy has withheld comment on Hashemi's visit to Lebanon, the latest in a series by the Iranian leader since his brother took office on Aug. 3, following the death of Iran's revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last June.

Rafsanjani heads a pragmatic faction in Iran which seeks better relations with the West. He has said the foreign captives should be released.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

SLA soldier killed by mine blast

KIRYAT SHMONA (R) — A member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) was killed in a landmine blast near the Lebanese town of Beit Yaboun Monday, military sources said. The sources said at least one other member of the SLA patrol was wounded by the explosion inside Israel's self-declared "security zone," a strip of Lebanese territory north of the Israeli border. The zone is patrolled by Israeli troops and the 2,500-man SLA, which is paid and equipped by Israel to protect its northern frontier against guerrilla attacks.

Israel jails woman for spying for PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court sentenced a woman immigrant from Yugoslavia to six years imprisonment Monday for spying for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Haifa district court said Victoria David, 34, should serve three years in jail with the other three years suspended. In exchange for the dropping of more serious charges, she pleaded guilty last month to giving information to an enemy, contact with an enemy and belonging to a banned organisation. At her trial, the court was told that David was recruited by members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement in 1985 and emigrated to Israel in 1987. Prosecutors said she gathered information about Israeli Arabs and photographed strategic sites including army bases and borders, sending the pictures by boat to her family home in Yugoslavia.

Ommani minister leaves for China

NICOSIA (R) — Ommani Post and Telecommunications Minister Ahmad Ibn Suwaidan Al Bushi left for China Monday on a six-day visit for talks on communications cooperation with Chinese officials, the Ommani News Agency reported.

Kuwait jails woman motorist

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti woman, convicted of speeding, refusing to hand over her driver's licence and escaping from police custody has been jailed for a month in the first such reported case in the northern Gulf state. The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said Monday the woman had also been fined 50 dinars (\$170).

IPU accepts Afghanistan as member

NICOSIA (R) — The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) voted at a conference in Cyprus Monday to accept Afghanistan as a member. Jubilant members of the Afghan delegation embraced and kissed when the vote, opposed only by Pakistan, was announced. Pakistan argued that the government of President Najibullah was not the true representative of the Afghan people and urged the IPU to reject Afghanistan's application for membership. The Afghan delegation said it hoped the IPU, which now represents 114 parliaments, would use its influence to find a political solution to the war in Afghanistan.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swaffield Tel. 810740.

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 622781, 683326.

St. John's Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440.

St. Simeon Church Tel. 661757.

Terrassine Church Tel. 622366.

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 623363, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 603262.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 619817, 654922.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold, cloudy and rainy and snowfall is expected on high mountains. Winds will be westerly fresh. In Aqaba, it will be rainy and winds will be northerly fresh and sea rough.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Izzat Abu Hader 637123

Dr. Akmam Sami 634611

Dr. Anwar Massi Al Haj 771021

Dr. Khalid Kloub 625473

Fine pharmacy 661912

Florist, pharmacy 778465

Neurotic pharmacy 623572

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsiati pharmacy 637660

IRRD: 623107

EMERGENCIES

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Ziad Al Bakri 661101

Al Sharra's pharmacy (962) 236

Deserts 3/13

Jordan Valley 9/16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 39 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

AMMAN: Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade

ACC nationals exempt from travel tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nationals from Jordan's partner countries in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen in addition to Jordan will be exempted from paying departure taxes and other fees upon leaving the Kingdom, according to an announcement by the Council of Ministers Monday.

The announcement said that this measure would be adopted only if reciprocated by the other ACC members.

Also Monday a Royal Decree was issued endorsing the 11 agreements concluded by the ACC states last February in Amman, dealing with cooperation in scientific, municipal affairs, health, meteorology, air and land transport and religious affairs.

One of the agreements, on health affairs, urged the four states to launch cooperation in medical services and in the production of pharmaceuticals to attain medicine, vaccines and medical appliances self-sufficiency.

The agreement encouraged the four states to exchange expertise, experiments and publications as well as visits by experts and scientists.

The four countries pledged to launch cooperation in combating contagious diseases, to exchange information and to organise conferences and seminars to deal with matters related to combating diseases.

The agreement called on health ministers from the ACC member states to hold annual meetings.

Civil service panel plans symposium on improving bureaucracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) will organise a three-day national symposium to pave the ground for the implementation of a public administration development programme to promote the work of government institutions.

The announcement was made at a meeting held at the CSC by the commission's council chaired by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin.

The council heard a review by the CSC Director Mohammad Abu Nowar about the CSC executive committee's activities and the preliminary steps taken in the course of implementing the four-year development programme.

Abu Nowar said that the 1990-1993 programme will be carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which had pledged to provide \$750,000 to finance the training courses within this programme.

The CSC's council groups ministers of planning, finance, education and higher education as well as the CSC director, the managing director of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company, the legal advisor at the Prime Ministry and the director of the Institute of Public Administration.

Palestinian rights violated — Abu Qoura

AMMAN (Petra) — The settlement of Jewish immigrants on Arab land in Palestine violates Article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention and is considered a flagrant violation of the international humanitarian law, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura said Monday.

"Israel's acts of sacrifice at the holy places and the historical and cultural sites in the occupied Arab territories represent another violation of international law," Abu Qoura said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that violations of and encroachments on these holy sites are committed on a daily basis, but are not denounced by the world community.

Abu Qoura said that the international organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had failed to help the Palestinians because of continued United States support for the Israeli enemy.

"In order to promote the youth centres operations and activities, the Ministry of Youth has now submitted a proposal for the establishment of a special fund to finance youth and sports activities in the Kingdom," the minister said.

The Council of Ministers is also considering a proposal calling for the formation of a higher council, grouping all youth sectors, with extensive powers designed to promote youth centres, the minister pointed out.

up at the camps will no doubt enrich the young men's capabilities and bolster their potentials," Ghabashish said.

Ghabashish said that his ministry was closely cooperating with other government departments which are concerned with the youth. "The work of the National Olympic Committee which groups several representatives of the ministries of education, higher education, universities, the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Youth is one example of such cooperation," the minister said.

"The Ministry of Youth is also directly connected with the work



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein Monday hosted an iftar at Beisan Palace. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prince Minister Muzdar Badran (photo above), Cabinet members, the speaker and mem-

bers of the Upper House of Parliament, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid as well as Muslim scholars and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan (Petra photo)

Rains bring sunshine

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cold front which affected Jordan over the past three days bringing in heavy rain and light snow in the high regions is expected to phase out Tuesday.

A spokesman of the Department of Meteorology said that more rain was expected Monday night and Tuesday morning but sunshine will gradually prevail.

The rains, accompanying the front from central Europe, drenched the whole country giving rise to further optimism for a better harvest.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat said that the rains would mostly benefit field crops, pastures and fruit trees in the high regions and the Jordan Valley alike.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) said that the rains reduced the valley farmers dependence on irrigation water from the dams.

JVA expects the recent rains to help replenish the Kingdom's dams.

According to the Department of Meteorology, Amman and several high regions in the south and north received light snow in addition to heavy rainfall over the past three days.

It said that Karak, one of three governorates hit hard by this season's drought, had received more than 60 millimetres of rain by Monday morning.

Embassy staff recall to save JD 576,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government plan to cut public spending is expected to save about JD 576,000 to the treasury, according to sources at the Foreign Ministry.

The plan, announced yesterday, entails the recall of 48 non-diplomatic officials attached to Jordan's embassies abroad.

A spokesman said that each of these officials dispatched by ministries of education, higher education, labour, information, health and industry and trade used to earn JD 1,000 a month in salaries.

"One of these officials is a correspondent for the official Jordan News Agency, Petra," the sources said.

He said the main aim is to cut down on government spending in line with the government's pledge to the Lower House of Parliament.

Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Mutassim Bilebi was quoted by the Associated Press news agency as saying that the

U.S. navy ship ends port call

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. navy ship USS Simpson today ends a port call to Aqaba, having arrived there March 29.

"Ships of the U.S. navy's Middle East force regularly call at Aqaba as part of their programme visits to friendly states in the region," a spokesman for the U.S. embassy here said.

"Past visits to Aqaba have been very much enjoyed by the

ship's personnel," the spokesman added.

While in Aqaba, officers of the ship visited military and civilian officials and participated in social events with local residents.

The ship's crew also participated in sporting events with Jordanian soldiers and visited the Nabatean city of Petra.

The USS Simpson is an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate.

Minister pledges to boost youth activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth is considering the revival of Al Hussein summer camps where youths can do useful work for the country during the summer holidays, according to Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghabashish.

The youths participating in these camps can, among other things, take part in planting trees to help attain Jordan's goal of greening the country by the year 2000 and can take up other constructive work under the supervision of superiors and teachers," the minister said.

"Voluntary work and other practical work which can be taken

Issam Tantawi: A bold, passionate retrospective

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

The Alia Gallery of Fine Arts, located at the first circle, holds a retrospective exhibition of the works of artist/designer Issam Tantawi.

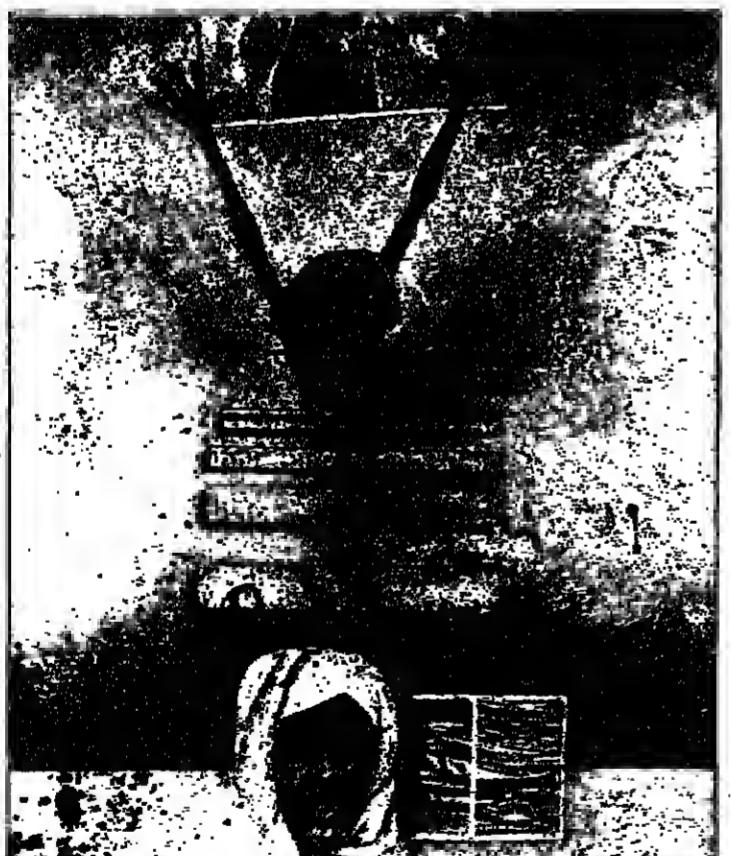
Very early in his life, Issam had a deep interest in art, painting in particular. But fate had it that he landed in Saudi Arabia, working at commercial design. This depressed the artist deeply, to the extent that he took the few paintings he had created, thirty canvases, carried them off to the open desert and buried them down. "I could not bear to see them standing there while my made-to-measure work was getting all the praise and the money," Tantawi explains. "If I chose commercial work then this fine work must die. I thought I would never paint again, I stopped for seven years and then started again."

The earliest works exhibited here are biomorphic representations of folds and crevices departing from a certain point, catching both light and colour in subtle gradations, flowing gently in all directions. Not all these forms are solid. In one painting the fine airy atmosphere is dissected by interpenetrating rays.

Issam exhibits rougher works of this period where square brushstrokes of intense colour build up evolving forms, depicting ruins and other constructions. He also portrayed prehistoric figures, with bulging eyes and folded arms that represent man as a timeless, placeless entity.

He went through a period where most of his work was done in blue-black. This morbid colour scheme, a wide-eyed owl, empty windows or ancient shrubs that stood behind major forms, all depicted the fears of mankind.

Here we see the evolution of the human figure from sheer abstraction to the fleshy, sensu-



The Crime

work, part of his visual language.

We finally arrived at what he calls his latest style: Thrusts of strong brushstrokes cover the background while symbols, both spontaneous and acquired, occur intermittently around the canvas as if to give sense to the fugue behind them. These symbols "bring one towards the understanding of a serious cause."

"Deluge" is a strong painting with a havoc of crisscrossing slab-like structures and heavy brushstrokes. A bottle, instigator of all evil, and a traffic sign, promoter of organisation, are the retaining factors on which the eye rests. In another painting, the parking sign is the resting place.



Three Colours

portrays a beseeching figure, arms raised, covered with a red spattering of paint (blood). He reaches out to a golden portrait of a lady above, who is totally unaware of his presence. He is flanked by two statue heads that look on but are deaf to his plea. Below is a portrait of a man and a photograph of folded tents which overlap an area covered with newspapers. Between these and the beseeching figure, we see steps made of the same newspaper texture. Would the news media answer his call?

As for his graphic prints, they handle the subject of woman in all her states: her physique, old or young, her sensuality, her pride and her sorrow. He illus-

trates poems that deal with the dilemma of orphans, of drinking, of the usurped land. Pessimistic, he portrays man behind the mask of an owl. Most graphics here are made in earth colours.

In his wide range of work, Tantawi maintains specific elements and techniques which respond to different moods and demands. On the surface, his works might seem varied, but analysed, they form a coherent visual language that develops along with the passionate character of Issam Tantawi.

This exhibition will be extended until April 15. Opening times of the Alia Gallery for the month of Ramadan: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Queen condole Kuwaiti leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Monday sent a cable of condolences to Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the death of his wife.

Decree approves law on mining

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday approving a law on potash mining in Jordan. The law states charging JD 6 per each tonne of potash by the treasury on monthly basis.

Princess Basma opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma opened at Alia Art Gallery Monday an exhibition of educational aids and handicrafts organised by Al Ahliya school on the occasion of its silver jubilee. The five-day exhibition includes children's paintings, art works, and educational aids.

Pakistani speaker in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Upper House of Parliament Speaker Wasim Sijad will arrive in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan. Sijad, who heads a Pakistani parliamentary delegation, will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House of Parliament deputy speaker Jamal Al Saraihi.

PSD opens new department in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Deputising for the Public Security Department (PSD) director, Major-General Fadel Al Fuheid, Brigadier Mu'ayyad Al Mubasir Monday opened a new drivers and vehicles licensing department in Madaba. The department will save time and money to the citizens who used to travel to Amman for procedures concerning licences.

Biology exhibition opened

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri opened Monday a biology exhibition at the Comprehensive Secondary Girls School in Amman. The three-day exhibition displays biology textbooks used in a number of Arab countries, researches and references on biology and shows films and experiments.

Students to get assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) decided to distribute in-kind assistance to school students in a number of the Kingdom's regions on the occasion of the beginning of the month of Ramadan. The JNRCS sources said that large quantities of clothes were handed to students in Karak, Maan, Tafileh, South Shuneh, Deir Alla, Mafrag, Zarqa, Salt and the Jordan Valley. The sources said that the rest of the regions will get assistance through the JNRCS student sections.

Consumer corporation opens new branch

IRBID (Petra) — The Civil Servants Consumer Corporation (CSCC) opened Monday a new branch in Bani Kainana district. The opening ceremony was attended by the district governor and CSCC managing director.

3,784 Jordanians get jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 3,784 Jordanian workers out of 9,145 job seekers registered at the Ministry of Labour offices in various parts of the Kingdom got jobs over the past two months, according to an official source at the Ministry of Labour. The source said that Amman employment office got the lion's share with 1,260 workers out of 5,000 employed. Aqaba office came second providing job opportunities to 678 workers out of the total of 766 registered at the office.

Aoun wants fresh plan

(Continued from page 1)
ways of halting the two-month confrontation.

Parliamentary Deputy Pierre Helou, talking to reporters after meeting with Steir, called on the government of President Elias Hrawi to "spread state authority throughout Lebanon."

"This is our only way out of this tragedy," Helou said. He talked to reporters at the entrance of the two-storey hilltop stone monastery which houses Steir's seat in Bikir, north of Nabaa.

Meanwhile Aoun's forces shelled it out with artillery and rockets in snow-swept mountains northeast of Beirut with the Lebanese Forces militiamen Monday as fires burned out of control in a deadlocked battle for the Christian enclave.

Police said one person was wounded by sniper fire in east Beirut's Christian district of Nabaa.

By police count, the inconclusive showdown for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has killed 839 people and wounded 2,290 since Jan. 30.

A Christian security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no solution seemed in the offing.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawamneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibitions of paintings and photos that depict the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroidery, ceramics, woolen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qadisiya Community College.
- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:30 a.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Arabic poetry recital by Dr. Walid Seif at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Documentary programme entitled "Conserving America: Challenge of the Coast" at the American Centre — 3:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Baker's not much different from Bush

THERE IS still a big challenge to Israel in the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Jerusalem Friday. In his letter to Congressman Mal Levine, a California Democrat and a staunch supporter of Israel, Baker had this to say on settlements of Jews in Jerusalem: "I am also very aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for the Jewish people as well as for people of all religions. Clearly Jews and others can live where they want, east or west, and the city must remain undivided."

If other peoples, presumably Arabs included in them, can settle anywhere in Jerusalem, then the formula just enunciated by the American secretary of state is a prescription for internationalising the Holy City. This has always a solid international proposal on the future status of Jerusalem and it has won some support and recognition. If internationalisation of Jerusalem is what the U.S. is now officially advocating, then it will be wiser if this stance is spelled out in the clearest possible manner. The Israelis cannot have their cake and eat it too. If Tel Aviv wants and seeks to keep Jerusalem, holy to the three monotheistic religions, united, then it must be prepared to accept to keep it so for all peoples as well, especially its indigenous people, the Palestinian Arabs. As Baker has poignantly pointed out to Levine, if Jewish immigrants must have access to Jerusalem, east or west, then others, meaning the Palestinian Arabs, must likewise have access to all of Jerusalem. Israel has been silent on Baker's pronouncement apparently because he has in effect called their bluff. It follows therefore that as long as Israel rejects the proposition that Jerusalem, east and west, is open to the Palestinians as well, then by default Israel must forfeit any claim to settle its people in Arab Jerusalem. And since this is the logical conclusion that must be drawn from the international position on Jerusalem, Israel should not have any right to stake a claim of its own on Jerusalem except in the context of a negotiated settlement of the basic Arab-Israeli conflict. Until then, Israel cannot and must not be allowed to settle any Jews, be they immigrants or otherwise, in Arab Jerusalem. In this sense there may be no contradiction between the pronouncement of President George Bush categorically rejecting Israel's claim to have the right to settle Jewish immigrants in Arab Jerusalem and that of his secretary of state. For, as long as others, principally the Palestinian Arabs, are denied access to all of Jerusalem, then Israel has no right whatsoever to settle its own people in Arab Jerusalem. This impasse brings to the fore the urgency of holding an international conference on the Middle East with a view to settling once and for all the entire Arab-Israeli conflicts, including the Palestinian problem, in conformity with international resolutions and norms. As long as Israel shuns such a negotiating forum, it must be prevented from taking unilateral positions on Jerusalem or the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday described a decision by the U.S. Senate to consider Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel as presenting an open support for Israel's usurpation of the occupied city, legitimising Israel's aggression on the Arab land of Palestine. The paper said that it is pointless for the Arabs to raise an outcry at the diplomatic level without backing their cries with practical steps, reflecting their unity and their genuine determination to regain their rights. The paper said that it is clear for all the Arabs now that an organised campaign is being launched on their nation from different sources and all is aimed at destroying the nation's will to fight or resist aggression. The recent developments point to one direction that the Arabs are targeted by their enemies who wish to maintain their aggression on the Arab region and exploit its wealth, the paper noted. It said that the hostile campaign is manifested in the onslaught on Iraq, the ongoing Jewish emigration, the escalation of repressive actions on the Palestinians and the obstacles being laid in the path of any solution for the Gulf conflict. It said that unless the Arabs unite and take serious concerted action and plans joint strategies at an Arab summit meeting, the Arab Nation will remain an easy prey for its enemies.

Al Dostour daily discussed Monday a meeting by the Israeli government during which a general review of Iraq's military capability was made. This review brings to mind a similar situation preceding Israel's raid on the nuclear plant near Baghdad nine years ago, and points to one direction: that Israel is now contemplating a military action against the Arab country, the paper noted. It said that by doing this and by discussing the situation at a government level, Israel is thus joining the Western media in the ongoing hostile campaign on Iraq, following the execution in Baghdad last month of a British spy. Israel and its Western allies did not expect that Iraq will come out victorious from the Gulf conflict and were surprised at the victories achieved by the Iraqi armed forces and the country's military capabilities which can be used to repel any future aggression, the paper continued. It said that should Israel launch an adventure, the Middle East will be in for a new period of turbulence and conflict which can only harm world peace and security. The Western media, the paper said, have been preparing the ground for Israel to launch its attack on the Arab countries, and it seems that the time has come for Israel to implement the final act.

Sawt Al Shabab dwelt on the same topic Monday and said that the first thread of the international conspiracy on Iraq came from London's Heathrow airport. It was the same airport where a previous campaign was launched against Syria in a bid to subdue the Arab country and enforce the Western will and impose Zionist desires on the Arabs, the paper said.

Economic Forum

Investment climate in post-devaluation era

THE first question put to me in a TV programme on Arab capital abroad scheduled to be shown today on the Arabic channel was how good I thought the investment climate in Jordan was. The answer was very simple and ought to be very persuasive. My hypothesis was that our investment climate had been distorted and made incapable of attracting Arab and foreign investments. If it has failed to convince Jordanian capital to stay in Jordan or come back to it, this climate will not be able to attract Arab and foreign capital in the first place.

Devaluation drag. Our investment climate was seriously distorted as a consequence of the economic crisis which had erupted in 1988 and derailed the Jordanian economy. To put the economy back on the right track, we need years of laborious work and consistent policies. Even then, the

frightened Arab and foreign investors will wait a bit longer to make doubly sure that the recovery is genuine and setbacks are decisively ruled out.

The point is that the crisis led to the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. Superficial analyses may claim that devaluation spurs foreign investment. In a developing country, this is an outright misunderstanding of the facts of real life. Devaluation makes local currency less expensive. It does mean getting more local currency units, dinars in our case for incoming foreign currencies but it also means giving up that many dinars when the time comes to retrieve these currencies. In developing countries, devaluation usually breeds further devaluations and the foreign investor ends up giving more local currency units to get back his initial money. This was exactly what happened in Jordan. We

started from a situation where it had been alleged that the dinar was overvalued by about 20 per cent but the floated dinar depreciated by some forty to fifty per cent. Thus foreign banks in Jordan, for example, are suffering because in spite of flatter profits in the dinar, they have found that their return to capital has declined. Now they find it difficult to persuade their head offices to adopt any expansion plans in Jordan. This exemplifies the investment dilemma that has developed in the post-devaluation era.

Hedge against depreciation. Now potential Arab and foreign investors would want an assurance that the dinar would not depreciate further and further before they commit themselves and their money to investment in Jordan. No policy-maker, to my mind, will be ready to make a statement to

that effect although every one of them is absolutely ready to work tirelessly to achieve that goal.

In a certain sense, a foreign investor undertaking economic investment (factory, farm, real estate), that is a venture which entails capital formation and thereby trades currency for physical assets, will not worry because these assets are excellent hedge against currency devaluation. But the point is that our foreign investors are basically Arabs and non-resident Jordanians whose investments take mainly the form of the so-called indirect investments. These entail no acquisition of physical assets but refer to financial assets denominated in dinars such as shares and deposits which are not shielded against currency devaluation. The savings which finance such investments originate in the fully-open markets of Arab oil

countries and have therefore full access to international markets with superior and more diversified opportunities. Why should they, therefore, opt to come to Jordan? This is a question that needs no answer.

Exchange controls: added risk. The devaluation of the dinar has heightened investment risks in Jordan. Because devaluation was accompanied with drainage of foreign currency reserves, the risk of controls on the transfer of foreign exchange or the unavailability of these currencies in the first place has been an added risk which has contributed to the contamination of the investment climate in Jordan.

Industrial strife. Devaluation depresses the investment climate in another sense. First it leads to over-devaluation, and unlabeled triggers inflation and substantial rises in the

cost of living. Later come industrial tension and demands for wage increases which are obtained only through industrial action. This situation scares foreign investors who resent the idea of working under the constant threat of industrial strife and mounting wages.

Changing tax legislation. Of course, the situation has been complicated by the constantly changing tax legislations. It is true that a foreign investor would not mind to make handsome profits and give up part of them in way of taxes, but the changeability of tax rates wrecks his calculations and might as well spill mistrust into the totality of economic policies. Unfortunately, that was our story throughout the eighties when we kept on changing our tax laws and, believe it or not, this happened twice in a single year: 1989.

Stunted educations and broken dreams

By Susan Linneé
The Associated Press

NDJAMENA, Chad — When wild-haired Chadian warriors from the northern desert descended on this sleepy capital a decade ago, they ran bayonets through books and strong rolls of film from the Normandie Cinema through the trees on Avenue Charles de Gaulle.

Their enemies from the south or the east or the west fired mortars into the country's only mainframe computer and ransacked schools and government offices.

The complex civil strife that consumed nearly 20 of Chad's 30 years of independence from 1968 to 1987 laid waste to more than just homes and buildings. It destroyed most vestiges of a fledgling government and administration throughout the central African nation and left citizens of the former French colony with little education and broken dreams.

AUGUSTINE Vanamby ran away to N'djamena at the age of 16 from a village outside the southern town of Sarh where she had been married off for the bride price of five cows at the time when marauding bands of renegade soldiers were terrorising peasants in the region.

Now 22, to support her daughter and several members of her own family, she serves meals and beer in her two-room mud-brick house in Bololo neighbourhood and works as a prostitute at Feeding and Equinox, two nightclubs catering to French soldiers.

About 1,000 soldiers, members of a French presence that has been maintained off and on since independence in 1960, are part of Operation Sparrowhawk, meant to be a buffer against Libyan attacks south of the 16th parallel.

In a scrapbook bearing the name of the French contingent in gold letters, Augustine has saved photos from a trip to France where she tried to become a computer programmer.

"My money ran out, and I had to make more to support my daughter and mother and brothers and sisters," she explained, lingering over a picture of herself in front of a chateau. "So here I am, back at the old business, hoping the French will stay but that there won't be another war."

AT the Faya-Largeau oasis half-way between N'djamena and the Libyan border, France is building a 2,800-metre airfield and airport capable of receiving passenger aircraft straight from Europe — and putting military aircraft within striking range of Libya.

According to French sources, France agreed to build the 80-million-franc (\$14-million) airport if President Hissene Habre — a former guerrilla leader from

the north — agreed to the withdrawal of Operation Sparrowhawk.

Hassane Djambi Adoum, the top regional official, is counting on the airport to make Faya the gateway to the mountainous Tibesti region to the north, where prehistoric cave paintings have remained out of reach of all but the most intrepid travellers.

Adoum is the new prefect, the top administrative officer in the Bet prefecture which saw fierce fighting in 1986 and 1987.

An oasis of some 10,000 people and the administrative capital of the Bet — named after the districts of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti — Faya was pounded by mortars, bombs and artillery from Libyans, Libyan-backed Chadian rebels and regular units of the Chadian army as late as September 1987.

"We have several thousand students back in school now for the first time since the end of the war," he said during a dinner in N'djamena.

"But notebooks, pens and books are hard to come by. We have organised four soccer teams in the region, but the players have no uniforms, no shirts, so it's hard to tell who is on which side."

MOUSSA Elie, a 30-year-old high school teacher of French language and literature in Sarh, also wants books — grammar books, history books, dictionaries, even 19th century French novels like the Red and the Black.

"My students — and I — are dying to read, to improve our minds and keep up with what is going on in the world. Well take anything, there is so little here, and no money for what there is."

Sarh is the hub of Chad's so-called useful southern agricultural region, but the town and its surrounding area have been hard-pressed since the world price for cotton, the country's principal export, fell 58 per cent in 1985.

Moussa and his colleague, Gueckalbaye Koumsoum, who teaches at the high school in Mongor in the centre of the country, are members of the tiny intellectual elite in the impoverished nation of 5.5 million with their \$350-a-month salaries that are usually six months overdue.

A senior Chadian official who was once a guerrilla fighter said one of the country's biggest problems is the rural exodus to the capital.

"The Iranians are looking for

'Nuclear proliferation threatens world peace'

By Alan Eisinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — As tensions with the Soviet Union have eased, the United States increasingly sees nuclear proliferation among Third World countries as the number one threat to its security and world peace.

"The president is strongly on record as believing that, but now one can see the emergence of an even greater threat than in the past," said one senior State Department official.

Last week's disclosure of an attempt to export equipment used for nuclear detonators to Iraq highlighted the issue. But officials and analysts say Iraq is far from being the only Third World nation striving to acquire a nuclear capability.

India already has the bomb. Israel is strongly believed to have a formidable nuclear arsenal. Pakistan is well on the way, even if it has not actually assembled a nuclear device, and South Africa is also believed to be well advanced.

Most worrying of all for U.S. policy-makers is the unsupervised North Korean nuclear programme, which officials and analysts believe is more advanced than that of Iraq.

Rear-Admiral Thomas Brooks,

head of naval intelligence, told Congress last month that a dozen or so nations could have nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Apart from Iraq and North Korea, he mentioned nuclear research programme by Iran and Libya.

Richard Fieldhouse, a military analyst with the Natural Resources Defence Council, a private Washington think-tank, said the beginnings of a nuclear arms race between Iran and Iraq were already evident.

According to Leonard Spector,

an expert on nuclear proliferation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the nuclear option is already a factor in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said the Israelis were in-

sponsors to catch up the Iraqis and recently signed a science and technology transfer programme with China which includes nuclear-related technology," he said.

There may also be links between China and North Korea, while there have been persistent reports of North Korean-Iraqi nuclear cooperation, giving rise to the suspicion that China may be indirectly helping both Iran and Iraq.

According to Leonard Spector, an expert on nuclear proliferation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the nuclear option is already a factor in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The only tool the superpowers have against such dangers is the non-proliferation pact. But some countries like Israel, India and Pakistan have refused to join and will not open their facilities to

international inspection. Others such as Iraq are widely believed to be flouting it. Jed Snyder, a Pentagon consultant, said he believed the Iraqis had successfully hidden the true extent of their programme from international inspectors.

The U.S. State Department official conceded that with Third World countries scrambling for hard currency, it would be difficult to prevent dangerous technologies spreading.

Washington has assurances from China that it will not sell medium-range missiles to Middle East countries. But the official said: "I would not disagree with the assessment that they would be eager to export items of that kind."

LETTERS

Bravo JTV!

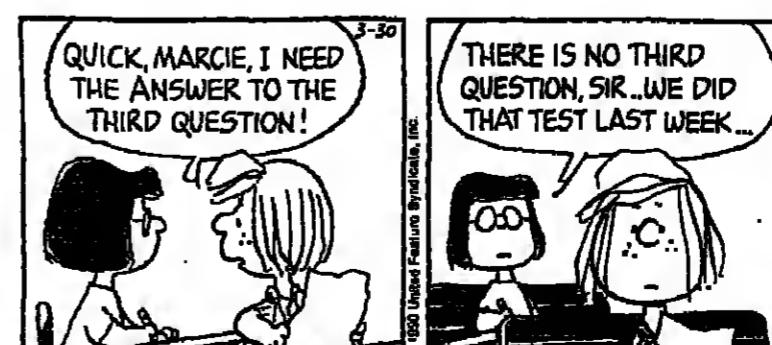
To the Editor

MAY I publicly congratulate Jordan Television for playing the film "The World of Puppets" on Sunday March 25. Jordan is now very aware of the importance of puppets in education, entertainment and installing values in children.

I must mention too that bountiful compliments that go their way for their choice of classical music which they now offer in profusion. We have waited a long time for quality shows such as these and beg for less trigger-happy characters in commercial movies.

Nelly Lame
Amanat

Peanuts



Snake hunting — not at all charming

By Edmond Roy Lafferns
Photos: Aditya Arya

DURGA NATH stared at me through his blackened eyelids, as he explained the legend of his calling. Many years ago, he said, before the winds became rain and the nights became day, the god Vishnu rubbed his hands in mud and made a man he called Gorak Nath. Vishnu then gifted this creation to another god, Shiva, who told him that henceforth he and his clan would be the worshippers and keepers of snakes. In the vast pantheon of Hindu gods, Shiva is commonly depicted with a garland of serpents around his neck, and it is from him that the Nathas of today gain inspiration.

Gorak Nath, the legend continues, after being told by Shiva to worship snakes then gave a great dinner at which he served cobra flesh and venom to the guests. It is from this great dinner that the progeny of the guests went on to become great snake charmers, and to develop an immunity to the potent venom of the snakes they handle.

But that is legend, and no one is more sure of it than Durga Nath himself, who while agreeing to take me along with his team for a snake hunt on the outskirts of Delhi, took with him his trusted medical kit. What that kit contained however was hardly the stuff to instill any sense of security in me as it was classic witch doctor stuff — herbs, bones, birds, feet, porcupine quills and 'holy' pebbles.

We travelled a few kilometres from the snake charmers' village of Molarband, on the edge of New Delhi to where Durga Nath assured me snakes were in plenty. The flat dry land was deceptively barren, sans life or so I thought, until Prabhu Nath, Durga's brother found our first cobra. Hardly had ten minutes passed when we had one hissing, writhing poisonous cobra in the bag, as Prabhu moved on to look into another hole in the earth. Putting his hand in rather fearlessly, I thought, Prabhu pulled out by its tail another cobra, and with a deft twist of his wrist pinned the head of the snake down on the ground before picking it up — head jammed between forefinger and thumb. The hold is vital, for some snakes are so supple that if held even a half inch behind the head they can twist around and bite. Hence it is best to hold the head itself.

For Durga and his team, this was only the beginning of the hunting season, by which time they would have caught nearly 200 snakes to charm the tourists in Old Delhi.

SOME hundred families of the Nathas — whose head is Durga Nath — live in the village of Molarband, an hour's drive from New Delhi. Durga Nath, who is also the village spokesman and wears

black eyeliner and the saffron robes of a holy man, explains that the Nathas have been living here for more than two centuries and that his ancestors charmed snakes for visitors to the courts of the Mughal emperors. Much has obviously changed and today Molarband is slowly losing itself to the southward spread of New Delhi. But cobras, rat snakes and the krait are still plenty. Over the next few months, the Nathas will gather some one thousand snakes from the surrounding fields, and each house will slither with serpents. Only a Nath woman, who has herself grown up with cobras on her bed and under her pillow, would marry a snake charmer. The family is therefore completely at home with snakes, as little girls, who can hardly walk, play by pulling deadly cobras by their tails.

The snakes that are caught by Durga Nath and his team are evenly divided among the charmers, and each snake charmer keeps one or two snakes all year for business. But most snakes are caught during the monsoons, when their holes are flooded and they slide on to small islands and climb trees for survival. Some are sold to hospitals and colleges for dissection or for venom milking, but most are worked for a few months and then set free.

"When we catch a snake," said Durga Nath, "we make an agreement with it, that if it will be our friend, we will set it free within a few months." But even if Durga Nath does not want his snakes to go back to the wild he has no choice, since most snakes fall ill in captivity, and have to be freed to survive.

The Nath travel across India, performing in market places, tourist spots, weddings and ceremonies. Their gourd or flute is merely for effect; since cobras are deaf and spread their hood at any threat. All performing snakes have their teeth removed and are often sick from a bad diet. But while there is a lot of effect and little magic in draping a toothless snake across your shoulders, there is great skill in catching the snake in the wild.

Durga Nath and his team exercise infinite patience while out hunting, poking into bushes and examining patches of grass for any tell-tale signs of a snake. Eventually he sees a faint slither mark of a snake entering its hole, and spends the next 10 minutes digging the hissing reptile out. But while ordinary cobras are a dime a dozen in India, the real test of a snake charmer is to capture the King Cobra in the wild.

The world's largest venomous snake, the King Cobra packs enough venom to kill an elephant, and grows up to 15 feet in length. Often someone from Molarband will disappear for several months to Orissa, Assam or the Western Ghats, and perhaps come back with a King Cobra. According to Durga Nath, the capture of a King Cobra is a long and hard business.

"THEY are very strong," he said, "we usually go with five or six people and take a sheet to throw over the snake's head." While many of the Nathas have been bitten by snakes during their hunt, it is possible that they have developed a partial immunity to the venom. But the snake charmer's chief protection against the cobra is no more than what the mongoose uses against its enemy: speed and wisdom.

The young Nathas of Molarband have grown up around snakes, but there are very few who want to learn the skills that Durga Nath displayed so well.

"In fifty years," says Durga Nath, "the snake charmer you see on the streets of Delhi will have disappeared."

For the Nath clan, the new snake hunting season will mean



The gourd or flute of 'snake charmers' is merely for effect, since cobras are deaf and spread their hood at any threat



Ordinary cobras are a dime a dozen in India; the real test of a 'snake charmer' is to capture the 'king cobra' in the wild



All at home with the snakes

months of hunting cobra, rat snakes and kraits wading through swamps and reaching barehanded into hissing bushes.

But now as the furious hissing from the bags made clear, the snake charmers of Delhi had just secured their first catch and it was time to give thanks to the gods.

As we drove back to the village, Durga Nath got out of the car and produced an evil looking bottle local brew. The

three Nathas then sat down on a bare patch of ground, and Durga with his saffron, robes blowing in the wind, ceremoniously tipped the bottle earthwards to wet the parched earth below. That was all the father of the Nathas got, as the liquid soon disappeared down three dry snake charmer's throats. The charm of snake charming may be fading, but for this season at least, the blessings of Shiva were upon them. — Discover India.

'Bercy' — a real temple to office technology in Paris

By Claire Thierry

IN PARIS, in July 1989, amid the celebrations of the bicentenary of the French Revolution, another little revolution took place. The Ministry of Finance left its famous premises in Rue de Rivoli (it had occupied a wing of the Louvre for 118 years) and moved to a brand new building. It is now situated at 139, Rue de Bercy, in the east of Paris.

Farewell to the centre of the French capital and the prestigious palace which is now entirely devoted to the Louvre Museum! Farewell to the gilding and woodpanelling! Some high officials sigh. But most of them are brightly pleased. They are leaving tiny, dark inconvenient offices for an ultramodern building on the banks of the Seine.

The "Bercy," as it is familiarly called, is a real temple to office technology. It is huge and functional: 360 metres long and 31 metres high, with total area of 260,000 square metres cabled throughout. More than 5,000 civil servants work there in conditions of ideal comfort: roomy offices, fitted carpets, movable partitions and contemporary furniture.

They have numerous services at their disposal on the spot (cafeterias, four restaurants, a sports complex, a creche with a garden, a bank, a library, an international conference hall, etc.) and, above all, the utmost in matters of organisation.

Indeed, this city within a city is the biggest pre-cabled building in Europe. Nearly 300 kilometres of cables link up 3,500 computers and terminals. This efficient system of communication, called "Scribe," designed and built by Bull, with the corresponding software, enables workers at the

Ministry of Finance to receive information in real time, without having to move. The latest electronic switchboard can handle 10,000 phonecalls an hour, a record in France.

Two other star performers illustrate the massive arrival of technology in administration. The first, called "Teledoc," is a little train (even so, it has 400 little carriages) which acts as a postal delivery service along the 6 kilometres of its route. It carries the mail to the addressee as soon as it arrives at Bercy. It takes half an hour. Previously, it took from one to three days.

The other, called Synodi, is an automatically operated filing system. The user types the code of the file wanted, on his computer, and a robot goes to fetch the document in the building where it is preciously stored. It takes two hours to receive.

Nor should one forget the tools put at the disposal of the minister and his direct aids: the helicopter pad on the roof and the landing-stage on the river Seine. They can thus get to the "decision centres" (the presidential palace of the Elysees and the prime minister's residence, the Hotel Matignon, faster, by air or boat.

This superb liner of the year 2,000 was designed by a team of five architects: Paul Chemetov and Borja Huidobro and built by Dumez, D.T.P., S.A.E. and G.T.M. in four and a half years. It cost 3.5 billion francs, which is about 10,000 francs a m². This is not all that expensive, when one considers the site, the quality of the appointments and the savings in operations which it makes possible. A remark by an executive: "From the point of view of logistics, it is sensational!" (L'Actualite En France).

Iraqi leader warns Israel

(Continued from page 1)

to the bombing of a plant where up to 300 Iraqis worked. "Those Iraqis, in their (the West's) viewpoint, were not human beings. Only Bazoft, and not the 17 million defending their security, was a human being."

Hussein also mentioned international arms dealer George Bull, shot dead in Brussels 10 days ago by unknown assailants, who he said had visited Iraq.

"Didn't (he) have any human rights when they killed him with a silenced gun, simply because he came to Iraq... when Bazoft... had the world stand on its feet for him?"

Hussein did not say who he thought had killed Bull, a scientist whose projects included long-range artillery.

Bazoft was arrested while visiting the site of a fire near Baghdad which foreign newspapers said was a military plant.

In his speech Monday, Hussein also said:

"If aggression is waged on (another) Arab and he asks for our help, we will do all we can, with the help of God."

He said the United States was partly built by a "bunch of undisciplined gangs" before it became a superpower.

"America is a superpower in materialistic terms, but not a moral superpower that safeguards the rights of peoples and respects international laws," he said.

On Bazoft, Hussein said Monday the Iranian-born Observer correspondent had given Israel information which could have led

nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, its air force bombed the Osirak reactor in 1981, while Iraq was at war with Iran, claiming the plant was being used to develop a nuclear bomb. Iraq denied that.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Nizar Hamdoon, under-secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, said since binary weapons are easy to store, "it will be more difficult for attackers to pinpoint their targets."

He said that Iraq developed these weapons before the end of the Iran-Iraq war but did not use them in that conflict.

Hussein said Britain and the United States should recognise "the rights of nations and peoples to defend themselves."

The Iraqis have warned Israel several times in the last two years not to launch pre-emptive strikes against its burgeoning arms industry which Baghdad now says is capable of producing long-range missiles and rockets capable of putting satellites into space orbit.

In December, Iraq announced it had tested two missiles with a range of up to 2,000 kilometres, enough to reach Tehran, Iran's capital, and Israeli cities.

On Bazoft, Hussein said Monday the Iranian-born Observer correspondent had given Israel information which could have led

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ABC cautiously optimistic about next decade

Arab economies enter 1990s split between indebted and rich

DUBAI (R) — Arab economies enter the 1990s split between indebted nations which must attract more foreign exchange, and rich oil producers which now need to allow their private sectors to mature away from state control.

The Arab World's biggest international bank, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), looked forward into the next decade with cautious optimism in its latest survey of Arab economies. "Although the 1980s were undoubtedly traumatic times for many Arab economies, the many positive aspects of the decade should not be forgotten," said ABC President Abdullah Saudi, referring to the effects of the 1980s oil price crash.

"The overall economic and social infrastructure has been dramatically upgraded, and the region's industrial and agricultural base immeasurably strengthened," he said in a preface to

the 175-page report, received Monday.

In broad terms, the major oil producers in the Gulf, and Libya, have completed the large, state-funded infrastructure projects which have set the base for their economies, ABC said.

Prospects for their future growth and economic stability now rely on a successful devolution of state economic power into the private sector, allowing a broader-based economy, more resistant to oil price fluctuations, it said.

The challenge for indebted North African states, and other highly indebted countries such as Jordan, and Egypt was to keep fiscal policies under tight control to maintain creditworthiness in the international financial community, it said.

Referring to individual countries, ABC said that the key to Saudi Arabia's future development lies in boosting the oil-oil

export sector and in greater overseas industrial expansion.

The big drop in state oil revenues in the 1980s has led to a quicker than expected structural change, with more emphasis on the private sector, it said.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Kuwait's oil exports and vast per capita external investments ensure its medium-term future but it has a long way to go in improving the efficiency of its internal economy, ABC said.

The United Arab Emirates' main problem is to ensure more even development among the seven emirates of its federation, which are dominated economically by oil producer Abu Dhabi and major trade centre Dubai, it said.

Iraq is a special case because of the damage to its economy from the war with Iran, but relatively minor damage to oil facilities puts it in a strong position economically if it can work out a proper peace with Tehran, the report

said.

The creation last year of the Arab Maghreb Union of Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Mauritania offered them the advantages of more integration within two economic blocks — their own and the European Community.

However, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia especially must control population growth, and create more balanced industries and better employment opportunities, it said.

Egypt's recent economic reforms have put it in a better position for the medium-term, but the country's large population will still impose severe strains on living standards, it said.

Syria is a special case because of the damage to its economy from the war with Iran, but relatively minor damage to oil facilities puts it in a strong position economically if it can work out a proper peace with Tehran, the report

Tokyo bull staggers again as stocks plunge, bank props up yen

TOKYO (R) — A fresh hail of bullets ripped into Tokyo's wounded golden bull Monday as share prices plummeted and the Bank of Japan had to step in again to prop up the ailing yen.

After weeks during which bad news has spread through Japan's stock and money markets like a plague, the latest virus appeared on the front page of a leading financial daily.

The crucial article, later denied, said the big Japanese insurance firms on this first trading day of a new financial year were planning to sell off dead wood stocks as part of a rearrangement of their portfolios.

"That really set the market off," said Jeff Uscher, deputy general manager of the Tokyo branch of stockbrokers Smith New Court. "We didn't need to hear that."

The 225-share Nikkei Index fell 1,978.38 points or 6.60 per cent in the day to close at 28,002.17.

It was the second biggest Nikkei points plunge in history and the biggest since the October 1987 world stock crash.

"The psychology of the market has been utterly and completely shattered," Uscher said. "Once bitten, twice shy. The market is nursing some fairly big bites. It will take a lot of time for people to come back."

Worries over a declining yen, rising interest rates and slower corporate profit growth have sliced 28 per cent off the index since it finished 1989 at a record 38,915.87.

Monday's newspaper report on a supposed institutional sell-off pushed the yen down below 160 against the dollar just after the Tokyo opening, marking its lowest level since December 1986.

"This shows the yen has no positive factors," said Shohei Sasaki, Sawa Bank's deputy general manager.

The dollar closed at 159.95 yen and 1,6980 West German marks after 158.50 and 1,6945 at Friday's New York close.

It finished off its peaks on profit-taking spurred by dollar-selling by the Bank of Japan shortly after the opening.

Dealers said they were hesitant ahead of the Group of Seven

industrial nations (G-7) meeting in Paris Saturday. But some said they doubted if the G-7 would single out the yen's value against the dollar alone for any decisive coordinated action.

As long as other European currencies remained relatively stable against the dollar, they said, the G-7 was unlikely to risk seriously undermining this balance.

The weakness of the yen and the Tokyo stock market also reflected the fact that the world spotlight had moved from Japan to Europe.

"Europe 1992 has changed much of the world, and Eastern Europe changed it even further," said David Pike, economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International. "It has eclipsed the Pacific age, the rising sun."

"We're seeing an adjustment to that. The danger is if the adjustment goes too far," Pike said.

Brokers said many expected the insurers to sell domestic shares in favour of high-tech and blue-chip companies.

"The insurers may want to prune their portfolios, but everyone's acting like they're going to use a chainsaw," said Paul Migliorato, salesman for Jardine Fleming Securities.

"The fear is that if anything goes up, institutions will knock it back," said an analyst with a foreign broker.

Crude oil trading was quiet in the Far East.

Gold bullion eased to about \$368.95 an ounce in late trade from \$370.50 in New York Friday.

In other regional markets, the Tokyo nosedive drove the Australian share market to a weaker close. The all ordinaries index finished 28.7 points off at 1,507.1.

Taiwan's stock market bucked the regional trend and closed sharply higher, inspired by the announcement of the sale price of the finance ministry's stake in three commercial banks.

The weighted index jumped 407.62 points to 11,163.49.

But as of midday Singapore stocks had fallen across the board in line with the Tokyo plunge. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index closed down, 63.28 at 2,934.7.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Person, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

CONFIDENTIAL nature during the day that would be good for you to put in motion now, then be very social tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make specific entertainment arrangements with your good friends during the day, then in the evening do small courtesies for attachment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You would be wise to add something that enriches your daily occupation during the day while tonight go after personal goals in a positive manner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can finish a discussion with a newcomer to each of your advantages after which you would be wise to go out in the world to connect biggishly.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Keep at these come to get some big material results from your special activity and later you will be able to get off to see interesting people.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Continue with that maternal plan of action that has already been put in action, then you can see ways to start some new ventures of importance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can wind up some important decisions where friendships are concerned during the daytime then tonight get into statements, make good budgets.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be available to what influences men want to do to encourage your progress, then later you see just how they can greatly benefit you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get those improvements in charm or comfort finalized for your surroundings after which you can get out with fascinating associates.

Algeria plans to double LPG production

NICOSIA (R) — Algeria will ask foreign firms to help double its production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by taking part in a four million tonnes per year expansion, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The Nicosia-based newsletter quoted Algerian Mines Minister Sadek Bousenna as saying the state-owned firm Sonatrach would launch a campaign during the second half of 1990 to attract both producer and consumer firms to take part in joint ventures which would produce and separate the LPG.

The plans call for construction of an 800,000-kilometre pipeline from the Ahar field in the southeastern part of the country to Hassi Messaoud and Hassi R'Mel in the northeast, he said.

Two pipelines with a capacity of 10 million tonnes per year already transport LPG from the northeast area to Arzew on the Mediterranean coast.

LPG would be produced from the Rourde Noura field on the route of the proposed pipeline and from nearby oilfield where gas and LPG are presently reinjected, Bousenna said.

He told MEES technical studies were already completed and preliminary contacts had been made with foreign firms. He did not name the companies.

MEES quoted Bousenna as saying studies were also underway on a project to produce 1.5-2 million tonnes per year of condensates from the Haoud Al Hamra area near Hassi Messaoud. The unexploited gas field there contains LPG and condensates.

Talks with the Kuwait Foreign Oil Exploration Company KSC (KUFPEC) for an exploration and production concession near Nezarine in northern Algeria were at an advanced stage, Bousenna said. Sonatrach discovered light, sulphur-free oil at a depth of more than 9,000 feet there in January 1989.

Italy's AGIP would also undertake further drilling in the Zemouli El Kharab region 600 kilometres southeast of Algiers where it discovered oil in December 1986 and January 1990, Bousenna said.

Bousenna told MEES talks were continuing with Italy on doubling a planned four to six billion cubic metre expansion of the Trans-Mediterranean (Transmed) pipeline which carries Algerian gas to Sicily via Tunisia.

The 1,100 kilometre pipeline, comprising three undersea lines, has a capacity of 14 billion cubic metres in its Algerian section, 13 billion cubic metres in Tunisia and 12.5 billion in the Sicilian.

MEES said further investment would be needed in both the Tunisian and Italian sectors to boost capacity of the Transmed through adding a wider fourth subsea pipeline or a fifth pipeline. Algeria would have to spend \$200 million on a booster pump system.

Uncertain oil demand may hamper expansion — OAPEC

KUWAIT (R) — Uncertain oil demand and the threat of import duties to consumer countries could hamper plans to expand the world's crude production capacity, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said.

The Kuwait-based organisation said exporting countries would not have difficulty securing finances to expand production to meet growing world demand, even when foreign help was needed.

"The real obstacle to expanding production capacity is uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries will fare," the Kuwait-based group said in its monthly bulletin.

"The repeated talk about raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on oil imports in the consuming countries only serves to exacerbate the exporting countries' dilemma," it said.

OAPEC said a frank, constructive dialogue between producers and consumers and between industry and developing countries was needed to achieve economic

rebounding world demand.

OAPEC Secretary-General Subroto has said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries must spend \$60 billion before 1995 to boost output capacity by the required six to seven million barrels per day (BPD), up from 17 million BPD now.

OAPEC, which groups 10 Arab producers, said the extensive environmental campaign being waged against oil products in industrial countries poses another major problem.

"Any decision taken in the name of environmental protection must be based on scientifically proven facts about the scale of pollution caused by various sources and the costs of reducing it," it said.

OAPEC said a frank, constructive dialogue between producers and consumers and between industry and developing countries was needed to achieve economic

rebounding world demand.

The invitation to constructive dialogue still stands. Are there any takers?" it said.

OAPEC groups OPEC members Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Libya and the United Arab Emirates plus three independent Arab producers — Egypt, Syria, and Bahrain.

GENEVA (R) — The European Community (EC) proposed rules Monday which would help the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade forum to combat trade piracy and counterfeiting of goods.

The EC's 21-page document was the first formal legal text put to a group negotiating protection of intellectual property rights at the Uruguay round of trade talks being held under the auspices of GATT.

EC negotiator Peter Mogenstern said a news conference the draft reviewed and revised, in legal language, ideas on protecting patents, copyright, trademarks and other rights the community had presented earlier in the 105-nation negotiations.

Other major trading powers, including the United States and Japan, have also put forward proposals, but they have yet to incorporate them in formal legal texts.

Protection of intellectual property rights has developed into a major issue at the Uruguay round talks, which were named after the country where they were launched in 1986 and which are due to conclude in Brussels next December with a series of agreements covering 15 sectors of international commerce.

At present, there are 27 companies trading their shares on the telephone market in the UAE, capitalised at 8.26 billion dirhams (\$2.5 billion), and of which the government owns around 40 per cent.

The National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) set up an unofficial index a year ago to track 22 of these companies and companies.

Daily turnover is active at around 200,000 to 300,000 dirhams (\$35,000 to \$80,000) a day.

The NBAD index, base 1,000 jumped nearly 40 per cent last year but declined sharply last month to 1,401.16 from 1,421.46 mainly due to declines in NBAD and National Bank of Dubai (NBD) shares.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 2, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	Japanese yen (for 100)
Round Sterling	1088.8	1095.0	419.2
Deutschmark	394.4	396.0	421.7
Swiss franc	446.1	448.5	Dutch guilder
French franc	177.3	188.0	109.1
			Swedish krona
			Italian lira (for 100)
			109.1
			53.6
			53.9
			Belgian franc
			French francs
			Swiss francs
			Italian lire
			Japanese yen
			Swedish krona
			Norwegian krona
			Danish krona
			U.S. dollars

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

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Brown retains welterweight title

WASHINGTON (AP) — Simon Brown stopped Tyrone Trice with a potent combination 51 seconds into the 10th round Sunday to defend his International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight crown for a seventh consecutive time.

Brown (32-1) put Trice against the ropes and then repeatedly pounded the challenger with a series of blows that forced referee Steve Smoger to stop the fight.

Trice, the no. 1 IBF challenger, fell to 36-3 after absorbing only his second loss since June 1984. The end came two rounds after Brown got the only knockout of the fight with a vicious left hook.

The bout was a rematch of their 1988 battle, when Brown claimed the vacant IBF crown by stopping Trice in the 14th round. In that fight, Trice had knocked Brown down and was leading on points before Brown rebounded to win.

Sunday, Brown established

control in the second round after an opening three minutes in which Trice got in the best punches by twice connecting with left jabs coming off the ropes.

Brown picked up the pace in the second round, stinging Trice with a good combination midway through the round. Trice retaliated with an impressive combination of his own in the final 30 seconds of the round, but it did little damage.

Brown scored with a crisp left jab in the third round that pinned Trice against the ropes. The challenger spent much of the rest of the round bucking up, content to counterpunch with his back to the ropes.

Late in the round, Brown pinned Trice in the corner and scored with a series of blows that clearly stung the challenger. But the bell rang with Trice covering up for protection.

Trice used a good combination to get things rolling in the fourth

round, but Brown twice pinned him in the corner and did damage in each instance with an effective combination. Again, Brown was pounding Trice in the corner as Trice and further bloodied the challenger's face. Trice spent the rest of the round hanging onto Brown and was penalized a point for holding.

Despite his barrage, Brown was cut over his left eye near the conclusion of the round.

The fifth round was more of the same, as Brown did heavy damage midway through by working Trice into the corner and landing with at least a dozen blows to the face and body. He duplicated that later in the round, opening a cut on Trice's nose and mouth.

After an uneventful sixth round, Brown again established command in the seventh with an uppercut that stunned Trice and placed him on the defensive. Trice, apparently weary, spent much of the latter portion of the round with his gloves over his face and often backpedaling from the onrushing Brown.

In a preliminary bout, heavyweight Riddick Bowe improved his professional record to 15-0 by stopping Robert Colay at 49 seconds of the second round. Bowe, a 1988 Olympic silver medalist, floored Colay in the first round and again in the second round before the referee ended the fight.

Seles wins Texas tennis games

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — Second-seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia captured her second consecutive tennis tournament, defeating Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland 6-4, 6-3 Sunday in the final of the \$225,000 U.S. Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

The fourth-ranked Seles, who won last week's International Players Championships, rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the first set to defeat the third-seeded Maleeva for the fourth straight time.

"It became 4-1 so quickly," said Seles, who won \$45,000. "I tried to work each point, one at a time. I started driving well and going for it. I got stronger as the match went along. At the beginning, I felt all the pressure."

The turning point of the match was in the sixth game as Seles held service and closed to 4-2.

At advantage out on her serve, Seles brought the score to deuce on a passing shot from the baseline. Maleeva took the next point as Seles mis-hit a forehand. But Seles captured the next two points and the game.

Maleeva and Seles each held their first services of the match and were at 15-15 in the next game when rain hit, forcing a 26-minute delay.

After play resumed, Maleeva won the game and went up 2-1. Seles lost her serve next game as Maleeva hit a forehand volley. Maleeva then used a series of forehand drives and held serve to take the 4-1 lead.

Both players alternatively held service. Maleeva had to work for her game, however, as the fifth game went to deuce twice. Maleeva closed to 3-2 as Seles shanked her return of serve.

Seles, though, utilised backhand drives (she hit 14 backhand winners to Maleeva's 7) and took a 4-2 lead. Seles put Maleeva on the ropes by breaking her serve to go up 5-2.

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After that point, Maleeva's game never recovered as she was broken twice, losing the set.

Seles continued to hit baseline passing shots and took a 2-0 lead in the second set. But Seles' six-game streak was broken as Maleeva held serve.

"I just made a few more mistakes than yesterday (Saturday, when Maleeva beat Lori McNeil of the U.S. 6-0, 6-4), said Maleeva, who earned \$22,500 as runner-up. "I didn't serve as well either."

Seles improved her record this year to 12-3.

The doubles crown and its \$14,000 first-place prize (per team) went to Kathy Jordan of the United States and Elizabeth Smylie of Australia who upset top seeds Gigi Fernandez and Robin White of the United States 7-5, 7-5. Fernandez and White won \$7,000.

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East German Social Democrat leader resigns amid Stasi row

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Social Democratic Party (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme resigned Monday amid a row over his alleged role as security police informer.

Party spokesman Karl-August Kamili told a news conference Boehme was giving up all his party posts.

Boehme, who denies links with the former Stasi security police, stepped aside a week ago to clear his name. After he had viewed his police files last Friday he said he would resume the party leadership Monday.

Kamili, a deputy SPD leader, read out a letter from Boehme saying his first look at the Stasi files at security police headquarters Friday had shown there were still further documents to be viewed.

"This is not possible in the

short time available. For that reason he is resigning his posts out of respect for East Germany's young democracy," Kamili said.

Nowhere in Boehme's letter did he acknowledge having worked for the Stasi. He said another reason for quitting was his health — he has been suffering from a persistent inner ear infection.

Boehme, whose party came second in East Germany's first free elections two weeks ago, was not at the news conference.

He was the second top East German politician to fall victim to the Stasi, the all-pervasive force that ensured hardline Communist

control until a peaceful revolution last year.

Just before the elections, conservative politician Wolfgang Schnur resigned after acknowledging he had worked for the Stasi for years.

The party he headed, Democratic Awakening, was in the victorious three-party alliance for Germany headed by the Christian Democrats (CDU) and backed by Bonn.

At a separate news conference, CDU leader Lothar de Maiziere said he aimed to be prime minister of East Germany's first democratic government.

De Maiziere, a musician turned lawyer, has also faced accusations of having worked for the Stasi. He has said his links with the hated security police did not go beyond those necessary to defend his dissident clients.

The SPD opposes inclusion of the right-wing DSU.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Storms kill 166 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Tropical summer storms battering Bangladesh for the past nine days have killed 166 people and injured at least 1,600 others in house collapses and accidents at sea, police and newspaper reports said Monday. A Bengali language daily Ifteqar said the latest deaths occurred Sunday when 13 people were killed and at least 200 injured in a storm that ripped through the coastal district in the south and the central province of Manikganj. At least five people were killed and 200 injured in house collapse on the island of Ustirhat off the southeastern coast, the newspaper said. Another four people were killed in the coastal district of Noakhali and four others died in Manikganj. Ifteqar said. At least 100 fishermen drowned last Thursday in a sudden storm in the Bay of Bengal, police officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The fishermen were listed as missing, but the officials, contacted by telephone, said Monday there was no hope of finding survivors. Thursday's storm also killed 15 people in the Noakhali district, 120 kilometres southeast of Dhaka. Many of the bodies were found buried under the debris of collapsed mud-and-straw huts. At least 500 people were injured.

Tiananmen Square reopens to public

PEKING (AP) — Tiananmen Square reopened to the public Monday with armed police maintaining a conspicuous presence among sparse rainy-day crowds. The vast square was closed to ordinary citizens Sunday, when overseas dissidents had called on students and others to "stroll" through the square in a silent protest over the military suppression last June of the pro-democracy movement. The city instead brought in some 5,000 schoolchildren who banged cymbals and beat drums as part of ceremonies to arouse civic enthusiasm for the Asian Games, to be held in Peking in September. Chinese offices and factories told people to stay away from the square Sunday and warned they should not go to Tiananmen on other anniversaries of events highlighting the April-June democracy campaign. The 40-hectare (100-acre) square, China's symbolic political centre, was open as usual Monday, but with a heavy police presence.

Gunmen kill 4 people in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — Gunmen sprayed bullets from a car in a Karachi street early Monday, killing four people and wounding six police said. The neo fled after the shooting in the centre of Pakistan's biggest city which is frequently hit by ethnic riots. More than 1,000 people have died since 1986 in ethnic unrest in southern Sind province of which Karachi is the capital.

World to mark Earth Day '90

WASHINGTON (AP) — A worldwide celebration of the environment will envelop this battered and polluted planet this month, and by all accounts Earth Day '90 will dwarf its namesake of two decades ago. Even corporate America wants to get involved. Planning for the environmental extravaganza has been in the works for more than a year. President George Bush has proclaimed April 22 Earth Day, and governors and mayors across the country are issuing similar proclamations. It was 20 years ago that Earth Day '70 ushered in the modern environmental movement. Denis Hayes, a California lawyer who was instrumental in the first Earth Day activities and is chairman of Earth Day 1990, says he wants this year's event to grab the attention of a new generation of activists for the coming decade and the next century.

Top mafia hit man arrested

ROME (R) — One of the mafia's most wanted "hit men" was arrested in the Sicilian town of Palermo Sunday after nine years on the run, police said. A spokesman said police had wanted Giuseppe Luccese, 29, who was seized with his girlfriend, in connection with up to 50 murders, including those of several senior policemen and public figures. Top anti-mafia magistrate Giovanni Falcone, who helped to plan the arrest, described the police operation as one of the most important coups against the mafia in recent times. Luccese is suspected of being behind the killing of police Commissioner Giuseppe Montano in July 1985 and that of former Republican Senator Ignazio Mineo the year before. He is also believed to have been a member of a squad which killed Palermo Prefect Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, his young wife and bodyguard in 1982.

Greens take lead in Slovenian campaign

BELGRADE (R) — Environmentalist candidates in Slovenia have taken a surprise lead in popularity polls ahead of Yugoslavia's first free multi-party elections since World War II, Belgrade newspapers said Monday. The daily newspaper Vecernje Novosti said a poll showed the Greens would get 31.3 per cent of the vote in elections due to start on April 8 with the Communists running second. It gave no percentage for the Communists or other opposition parties. A total of 17 political parties and groups, including the Communists who have changed their name to the Democratic Reform Party (DRP), are taking part in elections for the regional parliament and for the republic's president. Recent polls have shown that former Communist Party chief Milan Kucan is leading in the presidential race while opposition parties could win a majority in parliament. All Slovenian parties favour Western-style Social Democracy and sweeping autonomy for Yugoslavia's eight constituent republics and provinces while some opposition leaders have called for secession from Yugoslavia.

Relatives claim bodies of U.S. fire victims

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (R) — Grief-stricken relatives have claimed the bodies of 48 Hondurans who had sought to escape the grinding poverty of home by migrating, only to perish in a New York arson fire. Honduran President Rafael Callejas, who attended a brief ceremony at the airport after the coffins came in, called on Honduras to unite and help each other accept the tragedy.

Soviet army chief alarmed at spread in draft dodging

MOSCOW (R) — An eight-fold rise in draft-dodging in Lithuania and elsewhere in the Soviet Union, inspired by growing nationalism, is causing alarm in the armed forces, the chief of the Soviet general staff said Monday.

General Mikhail Moiseyev revealed in an article in the Communist Party daily Pravda that the number of young men refusing to sign up had jumped to 6,647 last year from only 837 in 1985.

Far from helping turn in the draft-dodgers, authorities both in the Baltic republics and in other centres of separation often encouraged young people to pass legislation which incited conscripts not to sign up, he charged.

Moiseyev's remarks, published to coincide with the start of the spring recruiting season, followed a bitter dispute between the Kremlin and the new pro-independence Lithuanian government over the fate of young deserters seized by troops last week.

"Special alarm is being caused in the army by the frequency of attempts to refuse military service," said Moiseyev. "The statistics are very alarming."

"This is the result of the influence of many negative factors including the strengthening of nationalist manifestations in a number of regions, and anti-army campaigns conducted by various informal organisations."

Moiseyev said that of 259 people refusing military service in Lithuania and the two other Baltic republics last year, only two had been sentenced.

In the three Transcaucasian republics of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, also the scene of growing nationalist and separatist

sentiment, just one out of 1,146 draft-dodgers was sentenced in the same period.

"More than that, local authorities in a number of republics have adopted anti-constitutional laws which effectively provoke young people to refuse to serve and to desert," Moiseyev said.

"It is worth asking legislators why they are so irresponsible about the fate of young people, pushing them towards crimes which are punishable by law."

A movement called Geneva-49 has been active in the three Baltic republics, Georgia and other outlying Soviet republics in recent months persuading young men not to sign up in the Soviet army, which they denounce as an "army of occupation".

The group justifies the call with reference to a provision in the 1949 Geneva Convention, which says releases people from the obligation of serving in occupying forces.

Lithuanian authorities, locked in a battle of wits with the Kremlin since formally declaring a return to the republic's pre-war independence on March 11, have gone further, defending the right of conscripts to desert.

The Lithuanian government last week accused the Kremlin of "kidnapping" after troops in the capital Vilnius and the second city, Kaunas, burst into psychiatric hospitals and seized deserters who had taken refuge in them.

A statement by the Soviet Interior Ministry, published in the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda Sunday, attacked Geneva-49, accusing it of misrepresenting the convention and speculating on people's ignorance.

Police officers said they had seized 100 supporters of Geneva-49, mostly from the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda Sunday, attacked Geneva-49, accusing it of misrepresenting the convention and speculating on people's ignorance.

Inquiry begins into huge gas blast in Sydney

SYDNEY (R) — A massive fire at a liquefied petroleum gas plant, which caused the largest evacuation in Sydney for 20 years and closed Australia's busiest airport, could easily have led to a catastrophe, firemen said Monday.

They said it was a miracle no one was killed or injured when the explosion of a 40,000 gallon tank set off a series of spectacular blazes which sent flames several hundred metres into the night sky Sunday.

Witnesses said they thought a plane had crashed at nearby Sydney Airport. One at least described the initial mushroom funnel of flame as "Hiroshima come to Sydney."

Around 100 fire officers fought the inferno for eight hours. Thousands of people living within three kilometres of the blaze

were evacuated, including guests at a luxury airport hotel and travellers at the airport's international terminal.

"I thought it was an atomic blast," said John Tarlington.

"We looked out of the window and there was a huge orange ball in the sky. Because we're so close to the airport, my second thought was that a plane had crashed."

They said it was a miracle no one was killed or injured when the explosion of a 40,000 gallon tank set off a series of spectacular blazes which sent flames several hundred metres into the night sky Sunday.

The whole area is devastated," said Ross Brogan of the fire investigation unit. "Buildings are demolished and shattered like matchwood... it's just total devastation."

If some of the tanks had

blown towards us, where we were evacuating from, we could have lost lives," he said.

Fire officers said they did not know what caused the initial fire. Investigators were only allowed to enter the plant around mid-morning because of the danger of further explosions.

Officials of the company which owned the gas plant said they believed a faulty release valve value failed to work, allowing pressure to build up in the 40,000 gallon tank and causing an explosion rather than a burn-off.

A police spokesman said it was the largest civilian evacuation in Sydney, Australia's largest city, in his 20 years in the force and probably the biggest in Australia since cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin in 1974.

A spokesman for the plant operator said he could not

Mandela to meet de Klerk Thursday

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said Monday he will meet South African President F. W. de Klerk next Thursday.

Reporters overheard him making arrangements for the meeting with de Klerk from an airport telephone. The reporters heard him say each man would be accompanied by three advisers.

Mandela told reporters afterwards he would meet the president Thursday.

He said at the weekend he wanted government guarantees that it would "exercise effective control" over the police, whom the ANC accuses of being largely responsible for inciting violence in black areas.

Mandela was to have addressed a joint rally with Buthelezi Monday to plead for peace in Natal, where more than 2,500 people have been killed in three years. Fighting intensified dramatically last week.

But the ANC also cancelled that meeting, saying it could pro-

voke increased bloodshed.

Mandela's close colleague Walter Sisulu told reporters on Monday Mandela would not meet Buthelezi at all during his two-day visit to the region.

Mandela told a rally near the coastal town of Port Elizabeth Sunday that the ANC would be prepared to go ahead with the talks, which had been scheduled for April 11, if the government guaranteed to control the police force.

Up to 17 people died last Monday when police fired on crowds demonstrating in the black township of Sebokeng, against high rents and inferior living conditions under apartheid.

"As soon as the government takes effective measures to stop police brutalities, we will examine the question and approach the government for another date," said Mandela.

Monday that Aquino has hinted she will ask Abad to resign because he was too controversial.

Aquino met Sunday with leaders of the ruling Struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party, or LDP, but failed to win support for Abad's confirmation from the congressional commission on appointments, where the party has a majority.

The bishops said they had hoped that the comprehensive land reform law, "imperfect though it was, would be a significant step forward in achieving a just redistribution of wealth in our country."

"But we... wish to express our great disappointment with the LDP, which, by blocking Secretary Florencio Abad's confirmation... has shown itself to be a major stumbling block to genuine agrarian reform."

Aquino said in a statement Monday she would keep pushing for Abad's confirmation.

Polish army remembers Katyn victims

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Polish army for the first time Sunday honoured the soldiers and civilians who died in labour camps or were executed in the Soviet Union during World War II.

"During this month of national remembrance, the nation recalls the facts and events of World War II, the battlefields, the places of torment and the places of the torture," the Rev. Florian Kiewiak, the main chaplain of the Polish army, said in a nationally televised mass in Warsaw's Victory Square.

This year's annual month of national remembrance is a milestone because under Poland's previous Communist leaders, official commemorations never publicly mentioned the fate of Poles who perished in the Soviet Union.

Attending the mass which opened the month of remembrance were President Wojciech Jaruzelski, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and hundreds of relatives of an estimated 4,500 Polish officers executed by the forces of Soviet leader Josef Stalin in the Katyn Forest.

The slain Polish officers and Polish civilians who died in Soviet labour camps were remembered in the "call of the dead," a symbolic ceremony when those who died for Poland are remembered. An estimated 500,000 of the 1.5 million Poles deported to Siberia died there.

The relatives of the Katyn Forest executions are still seeking official recognition from Moscow acknowledging that the Soviet Union was responsible for the deaths.

The officers had been deported to the Soviet Union after World War II began. Their bodies were found by the German Nazi soldiers in 1943. Stalin claimed Hitler's forces had murdered the officers in 1941.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	°C	°F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	07	15	63	Cloudy	
ATHENS	12	24	21	70	Cloudy
BANGKOK	18	34	28	79	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	37	25	77	Rain
CARIO	10	50	21	70	Cloudy
CHICAGO	07	45	13	55	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	45	10	50	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	04	33	19	65	Cloudy
GENEVA	08	37	18	64	Cloudy
HONG KONG	21	27	71	81	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	05	41	16	61	Cloudy
LONDON	12	54	15	58	Rain
LOS ANGELES	13	56	19	66	Cloudy
MADRID	08	41	16	61	Rain
MEXICO	19				